



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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TO: Members, Public Disclosure Commission

FROM: Doug Ellis
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DATE: May 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Rule-Making Process – Conceptual Discussion

During the next three months staff will conduct stakeholder meetings on possible agency rules. The meetings will seek public comment on potential rule making topics and give all interested persons an opportunity to participate in the process.

A report on the initial stakeholder meetings and a briefing on the possible rules will take place at the August regular meeting of the Public Disclosure Commission. The following topics will be reviewed:

Amend Chapter 390-19 WAC Electronic Filing.

On January 1, 2004, the threshold for mandatory electronic filing of campaign finance reports is lowered from \$25,000 to \$10,000 in expenditures. Possible rule amendments are needed to clarify that electronic filing is an annual mandate, to establish an additional threshold level to determine when a filer can reasonably "expect to expend" an amount over the \$10,000 threshold and to develop electronic filing guidelines for candidates and political committees involved in special elections.

New Rule on Disclosure of Small Contributors

On February 12, 2003, King County Superior Court Judge Richard McDermott issued a permanent injunction enjoining the Commission from taking action to enforce RCW 42.17.680(4) by requiring employers to disclose the names or signatures of such individuals who have made contributions in the amount of \$25 or less during the year. Possible new rule may be needed to assist in implementing the requirements of the permanent injunction.

New Rules on Caucus Political Committee Reporting Requirements

The 2003 Caucus Political Committee audits revealed a need to clarify the reporting requirements of agents working with more than one political committee and activities jointly shared by more than one political committee. Possible new rules may be required to clarify and define the level of reportable contributions and expenditures within statutory contribution limits.

Action by the Commission. At this point, staff is requesting concurrence to proceed with the rule-making process.